Dear Parents and Community Members,

Welcome to Week 5 of Term 4 – the midway point of the term. It is difficult to keep up with the fast paced nature of this term. With just 29 learning days to the end of the year attendance to school is even more important. Every day brings valuable learning opportunities that are important and essential to the learning of all children. As the end of the year is fast approaching, I would like to reiterate the importance of attendance to school each day until the end of the term (9 December 2016).

SPOOKY DISCO

I would like to thank staff and community members who were able to attend the disco on Friday night and help out in some way. Your support was greatly appreciated by our school community. We are very fortunate to have a dedicated group of parent and community volunteers who take time out of their busy personal schedules to ensure our children are provided with these opportunities. The old saying “many hands make light work” is never truer than in school P&C associations and I know they would enjoy any offers of assistance in operating these types of events in the future.

The disco itself was a wonderful evening. The children had a great time and their behaviour was excellent. It is clear that children understand that there is value in them maintaining a minimum bronze level of behaviour to being able to participate in non-curriculum events. I thank the P&C for their support in this matter as our purpose behind it is to ensure that we develop respectful, responsible, resilient children who understand that communities have expectations of acceptable levels of behaviour.

ADMINISTERING MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

If your child requires staff to administer medication to your child at school, please contact the school office in the first instance to discuss your child’s requirements. Please note, school staff will only administer medication that:

- has been prescribed by a qualified health practitioner (e.g. doctor, dentist etc);
- is in its original container; and
- has an attached pharmacy label.

Office staff will ask you to complete and sign Section 1 of the Administration of Medication at School record sheet. If your child requires more than one medication, you will need to complete a form for each medication.

Before you provide the school with your child’s medication, check the expiry date to ensure it is in-date and there is enough for the agreed time period. It is also a good idea to take a note of the expiry date so that you can replace the medication before it expires.

School staff cannot administer medication that you can buy over-the-counter at chemists and supermarkets (e.g. paracetamol, eye drops, cough syrup) unless it has been prescribed by your child’s qualified health practitioner. For example, the school would administer paracetamol to a student only if it has been prescribed by their dentist to be taken for a short time after dental treatment. School staff are bound by these regulations and we hope that all parents will acknowledge and cooperate with them.

RECOGNISING TUCKSHOP DAY

We are fortunate to have a group of tireless tuckshop workers in our school who are the unsung heroes in ensuring many people are provided nutritious meals each day at school. Friday 4 November is Tuckshop Day where we give acknowledgement and a pat on the back to these volunteers and employees. Sometimes we forget to notice the important contribution tuckshop workers make to the everyday operation of schools and this day is an opportunity to promote our school tuckshop and say thanks to the workers for their hard work.

Our tuckshop is always looking for more volunteers to assist and you don’t have to spend a whole day at the tuckshop. Parents or members of the wider community can make a real contribution by volunteering for as little as an hour. If you are able to assist in this regard please contact Alana.

SCHOOL RESOURCE SCHEME - 2017

I advise that after a review by our staff and consultation with the P&C Association there will be no changes to the School Resource Scheme in 2017. The Resource Scheme assists our school in providing enhanced learning opportunities and specific resources to complement learning in the following areas:

- Additional classroom art materials and equipment
- Printed resources
- Additional developed school based technology

Students will be responsible for other school costs incurred in excursions and sport programs, etc. The School Resource Scheme rate supported by the P&C is as follows:

- Resource Scheme for Year 3 – 6 children will remain at $70 per student.
- For Prep – Year 2 students the Student Resource Scheme will remain at $160 per student and this includes all classroom resources children will require for their everyday learning.

Payments can be made on any school day at the office. EFTPOS and Visa card payments are accepted at the school office including automatic term credit card payments. Payment plans are also available.
When you visit our school and our classrooms you will often see our staff and students using what we call visuals. These are often small cards with pictures and words on them. Many of our staff may even have a keyring full of them. Visuals are an important strategy to use with many children but particularly for our students with disabilities such as Autistic Spectrum Disorder or Intellectual Disability.

Why do we use visuals?

- Most children with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) have strengths in visual areas compared to other areas.
- Up to 80% of families have their child’s (with autism spectrum disorder) hearing test first because of delays in language development. Children with ASD can hear but they can’t process verbal language.
- A symbol or picture remains constant long after the word or sign has been completed.
- People with autism tell us language is confusing. Temple Grandin, a well-known American with autism reports “I think in pictures.”
- Sensory processing difficulties are part of ASD so it makes sense to support one sensory input system (i.e. hearing) with another – sight.

This information comes from tip sheets from www.suelarkey.com

Michelle Bussell, Deputy Principal Teaching and Learning

INSTRUMENTAL RECRUITMENT

All students in Years 3 and 4 who would like to learn a brass or woodwind instrument in 2017 will be given an expression of interest form next Wednesday 2nd November on parade. The school concert band will be performing at this parade (please remind your child to bring their instrument and music if they are in the band) so students can see and hear the instruments they may want to learn with instrumental teacher Ms Pols-Molford. All expression of interest forms must be signed and returned to our school office as soon as possible so the selection process can begin. The selection process is based on a student’s behaviour, musical skills and aptitude and suitability to the instrument they have selected.

Sheree Howell, Music Teacher

CHOIR NEWS

The choir has been learning a repertoire of traditional and contemporary Christmas Carols and sign language during their rehearsals in Term 4. They have been invited to perform at a variety of community events which will be advertised in the upcoming weeks via the newsletter and note home. If you would like your child to be a part of these performances, please encourage them to attend all rehearsals.

Sheree Howell, Music Teacher
In Year 2 English this term, we have been learning how to write exciting endings using more descriptive language. In pairs, we brainstormed and recorded our ideas for the story “Ms Johnstone to the Rescue” by Karla King and Aedenn Rowan. With our partners, we wrote an exciting ending. Here are some of our ideas.

BOOM!! Batwoman appeared. She said, “I will rescue all of you.” Batwoman wrapped her fake cape around the smelly dogs. Then she revealed her face by taking off her mask. The people said, “It is Ms Johnstone!”

By Campbell and Ethan

Was it Wonder Woman? Was it Superwoman? NO, it was Batman to the rescue! Firstly, he tied the dogs up and then he threw love dust over them. The dogs became good friends. Batman landed on the ground with a really hard thump. Then he took off his cape and then his suit. Finally, he took off his mask. The person had been revealed. The little girl shouted, “It’s Ms Johnstone!”

By Logan and Samuel

Suddenly a shadow appeared from the rusty old basement. It was Batman to the rescue! He grabbed the little girl and put her near the toilet. Then he went to get the dogs out of the school. He grabbed the dogs in one hand and threw them away and they never came back again. Everyone yelled “Hip, hip, hooray!” Then something weird happened. Batman took the mask off and under that mask was Ms Johnstone. Everyone yelled, “WHAT?? It’s Ms Johnstone!”

By Cooper S and Cooper L

All of a sudden a loud rumbling sound came from the basement. Do you think it is Batman or Batgirl? There was a shadow that was huge, dark and shaped differently. It was Batgirl. She blasted the dogs off to a planet that was dark and gloomy. Then Batgirl came back. She carefully took her mask off and they all realised that Batgirl was Ms Johnstone. Everyone said, “WHAT!! It can’t be Ms Johnstone!”

By Sharpei and Sophia
ATTENTION: YEAR 6 STUDENTS WITH SIBLINGS WHO ARE CURRENTLY ENROLLED AT GORDONVALE STATE HIGH SCHOOL IN YEARS 7-11:

As the end of the school year is fast approaching, we would like to take this opportunity to REMIND parents and carers that:

If they have a student who is currently enrolled in Years 7 to 11 at Gordonvale State High School, and have a Year 6 student who will be attending Year 7 in 2017, that you are still eligible to enrol your Year 6 student.

Please contact the Gordonvale State High School office to book an enrolment interview on 4043 3222. All enrolment interviews will be conducted between 8am and 4pm.

Kind Regards,
Lauren Huth
Head of Junior Secondary

PARADE TIMES

Tuesday 2.30pm  Years 1 and 2
               Years 5 and 6

Wednesday 2.30pm Prep
               Years 3 and 4

STAFF CAR PARK CLOSED BETWEEN 8:30AM – 3:30PM

Our primary responsibility is to ensure your child’s safety at all times whilst at school. Therefore, the staff car park (located in front of Prep/beside hall) is to be used only by staff between the hours of 8:30am and 3:30pm. During peak hours in the morning and afternoon, there are a high number of students and pedestrians in this area and it is essential that car congestion is minimised.

Alternate parking can be found at Jubilee Street, Marr Street and the front of the school.

P&C Information

The next P&C Meeting will be
Tuesday
15th November 2016
6:30pm in Staffroom

TUCKSHOP TERM SPECIAL

Sushi
(order TUESDAY to eat WEDNESDAY)

Teriyaki chicken and avocado
Tuna and cucumber; or
Mixed

$4.00

TUCKSHOP ROSTER

Ring by 8:00am if you can’t make it!
40408666 - school office

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